

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02844 231318Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1173

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2844

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 089858

1. IN MY MEETING WITH RABIN THIS MORNING I TOLD PRIME MINISTER THAT I FELT OBLIGED AGAIN TO RAISE WITH HIM THE THORNY QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS. HIS GOVERNMENT WAS, OF COURSE, FAMILIAR WITH OUR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE FROM MY EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM, FROM MY TALKS WITH ALLON, AND FROM THE SCRANTON STATEMENT. HOWEVER, I WAS NOW UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU TO GET HIM TO KNOW THAT IF THERE SHOULD BE ISRAELI POLICY STATEMENTS ABOUT NEW SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED AREAS WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO REACT PUBLICLY. WE DID APPRECIATE THAT THIS WAS A DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT RECALLING HIS RECENT ADVICE THAT WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND MINIMIZE THE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT, I SAID IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I WAS RAISING THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH HIM.

2. IN RESPONSE, RABIN COMMENTED THAT OUR POSITION IS WELL KNOWN TO HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES. HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CERTAIN DECISIONS AND THEY WOULD TRY TO DO IT IN WHAT HE CALLED THE "PROPER WAY". HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY NOW WHAT THESE DECISIONS WOULD BE SINCE THAT WOULD BE FOR THE CABINET TO DECIDE. THEY WOULD TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SIGNAL US AHEAD OF TIME WHEN THE DECISIONS

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02844 231318Z

WERE LIKELY. HE NOTED THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN PENDING SINCE THE

BEGINNING OF DECEMBER AND THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT ARISE UNTIL AT
LEAST SOMETIME IN MAY.

3. I REITERATED THAT WE MAY HAVE TO REACT PUBLICLY TO ANY
DECISION CABINET MAY REACH. RABIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD.
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